Analysis of current North-Viet Nam situation

The reported attack on an American destroyer in broad daylight and good weather is improbable as reported by US Govt. Also, there has been no proof that the three attacking PT boats were NV (although it is likely). In the light of the undenied reported attack on NV soild both by air and sea, it is likely that the NV thought the US destroyer the ship or one of the ships SV had used in these attacks, and it is often difficult to distinguish between destroyers and destroyer escorts. If, however, the NV recognized the destroyer as US, then one of their objectives could have been to force the entire issue of undisguised US intervention into a public forum such as the UN since the US has prevented the reconvening of the Geneva parties and the US has been at the very least the violator of this agreement on the greatest wholesale scale. It has done this openly, claiming it as a right. However, there are a number of key signs that this was not an effort to escalate by NV, one of which was the well-publicized absence of K from Moscow, other including the moderation of the blasts vs US.

The second incident, as reported by the US and at the UN, also is illogical. Again, there was no positive identification of the attacking PTs as NV, and it is possible if not indeed propably they weren't. Cina is one possibility. SV is a greater possibility, and in this connection note McNamara's statement they came from the south and west. Had this been a deliberate NV escalation, it is extremely unlikely the US planes would have found the PTs sitting ducks in their harbors- the NV's would have been on the alert. How strange it is that the US had had no pictures, no positive idebtifications, nothing but allegations. Reactions indicate most of the rest of the world is not buying our story. All of our beliefs and pholophosy is based on the false assumption that the continuing successes of the self-styled liberation forces in SV, which the US consistently calls communist, are and would be powerless except for

intervention by NV and China. Obviously, our ill-informed and indoctrinated officials believe this and all their reasoning is based upon it. A very weak base for a foreign policy. It has become abundantly clear that from the very beginning SV would have voted to join NV had it not been for US intervention, and the magnitude of this intervention has been determined by the needs of frustating this, based on the phony domino theory.

Meanwhile, both the US and Khanh govts for over a mobth have been openly calling for attack on NV. It got to the point where the US had to back off publicly, but officials of the Khanh govt have publicly boasted of their attacks on the NV islands and mainland, both by air (frecuent ) and sea, and of the intrusion of agents, in which the US was also involved, something NV has been publicly documenting for a long while. NV has specified occasions and men, and apparent belief in the south is that 85-90 percent of the intruded agents are captured imediately.

Stevensons performance at the UN was poor, weak and not well received, either at the UN or in the US press, where the Washington Post, for example, didn't give it page one play. Despite the monolithic press support, analysis would indicate uneasiness by the press over the situation, at least the more reasonable press.

Thisnis the analysis I gave Les, to date it : escalation by SV, with our without US (or CIA) involvement; mistaken identity, of D for DE; of NV diplomatic ploy.

The Air Attack by the US, designed as a parallel of Pearl Habor, is a monstrous blunder, especially because it is not self defense, not in repulsing an attack, and in the absence of positive identification of the alleged attackers of the US boats, none of which in any event was hit. The denial of the administration that it gave warning makes the Pearl Harbor comparison sure; and the accusations of adm. opponents that the US had given warning means they think it wasn't a pearl harbor and should have been. The adm. claim that radar would and did have

the planes on their scopes from the time they left the carriers is pure freud, for it is likely that the planes were as low as they could have been to avoid this, and McNamara said the attacks were also low-level. It is also clear that the first wave was unexpected, from the antiaircraft response.

The piety of the administration's pose hasn't been well received abroad and wont be, especially among the smaller powers. The philosophy and legality are especially open to question, and the morality is lower than anything since Hitler.

All the early indications are that the communist powers are going to let usstew in our own juices, in our own pot, and over the fire we ourselves have built. They have nothing to do except sit back and reap the harvest of our foolishness, aggressiveness and frustrations, for frustration over the persistent refusal of the SV public to associate itself with our designs for them is something Washington cannot understand. All indications also are that the Communist powers were caught completely by surprise by the US action. They could never have anticipated anything as completely insane as this.

9th. Over the weekend there have been a number of intersting news items bearing on the above. A red machine-bullet from the scond attack was found on one of the US ships. I predict that no analysis of it to show its origin will be made or made public if made, for this would show US origin, hence that it came from SV PTs. US has cancelled contract with front "private" US company flying US planes for SV govt (CIA contract). Martial law, with absolute power to kill on basis of pure fancy, established by Khanh govt. Students in North protested strongly enough to break through police lines guarding Khanh, and he also told them that officials responsible for persecutions (admission they have continued since Diem downfall) have been fired. Liberation forces inactive-caught by surprise by events, except around downed US bomber. Intelligence reports no sign NV of China troop movements or any other unusual movements. McN also reported no sigh of strengthening borders before incidents. unlikely if provocation intended by

north, either China or NV. Other countries now quoted as saying what the US has described as "routine" patrols were in themselves a provocation, and US announces they are being ended ; temporarily, in itself a major admission of their foolishness and provocative nature. The Turkish government has copied the US policy and used it as justification for air attack on Cyprus by 30 planes give it by US. This and the possibility of SV DE's being mistaken for US ships again raises question of wisdom of spreading US instruments of aggression and death all around the world in the hands of the most irresponsible people none of whom are or ever have been in serious danger of attack from enemies. I still believe this is one of the most serious of a succession of US diplomatic bludders of major magnitude, beginning with Kennedy's tough talk to K at Vienna, followed by mobilization of the US National Guard, which was immediately followed by construction of the Berlin Wall.

Just imagine the NV planning aggression against the US without reinforcing their border with SV, and without reinforcement, at least with a few planes, from China. Impossible!

US reports of lack of reinforcement by both countries shows U2s over them, itslef an act of war in context. Note earlier US admissions of SV attacks on NV, using US boats, and presence of US destroyer on the occasion of the attack on the islands, to which NT attack (first) could have been a response, and a very brave one, if we are to be fair. Also, at least lack of US denial of air attacks in NV with US planes, either in "private" or SV hands, if not indeed flown by US pilots. Also, open US plan for bombing of 200 NV villages in response to liberation forces attacks in SV. The US claims in the recent past of the significance of NV aid to SV preposterous. It includes transport on the back of men of heavy equipment over 1000 miles over Ho Chi Minh trail, through dense jungles. At the same time, in beginning the policy of revealling the allied capture of weapons from the Thanh forces, the US is acknowledging that this is the main method of liberation arming, as it was in China and as is classic is guerrilla warfare.